

LOCAL NEWS.—The City and Suburban News Bureau of the United Press and New York Associated Press is at 31 to 39 and street. All information and documents for public use are furnished to the press of the whole country.

This Country and the World.

The long cherished idea of the United States, alone and serene in the Western Hemisphere, expecting neither invasion within its own borders nor need of military activity for any purpose without, fortified against all possible danger from the Old World by the record of the MONROE doctrine and three thousand miles of Atlantic water, living in continual peace and isolation from Europe, undisturbed because undisturbed, has been one of the most beautiful dreams in the political history of mankind. But it was all a dream.

Among the nations of Europe there has revived the medieval ambition to own the world, with Africa today as the chief field of its illustration. Soon the hundreds of peoples of Africa will be reduced to five or six. They will be English, French, German, Italian, or Portuguese. If today there existed no great power in the Western Hemisphere, like the United States, South America would soon fall like Africa. The governments there are American, constitutional, and with all their imperfections, firmly founded on republican principles. But what is that to the rapacity of England as the leading conqueror and colonist? The one conspicuous independent civilized Government of Africa, the Transvaal Republic, has missed by a hair's breadth only being swept into the English bag.

To-day, with the comparative feebleness of the South American republics, nothing stands between them and capture but the prestige of the United States. Up to now the great weight of the United States in maintaining the independence of the Western Hemisphere has been largely sentimental. The sight of a strong and intelligent people of seventy millions forbidding European invasion of this hemisphere is impressive; but when the pinch begins to be felt, as it has begun already in the case of Venezuela, our state of preparation does not guarantee to us and our sister republics the freedom from foreign aggression, which every patriot on this side of the Atlantic is resolved we shall enjoy. The old fancies of military indolence and of security in our geographical circumstances and our own national policy, have gone by, and we are confronted by grim facts which tell us that this nation is but one of others, and that, if we are to hold the place that nature has assigned to us, in the development of the world, we must prepare to deal with it as a prevailing colossus.

A standing army such as exists in the great European States will never be necessary here; but we must have the foundations of a military establishment, fortifications, and a fleet which will inspire respect in every eye.

Chicago is a city of Illinois, situated upon the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan. It is principally celebrated for three celebrated historical events, namely: The most extensive of urban conflagrations ever caused by a cow; The most magnificent and successful of world's fairs; and The Republican National Convention of 1860, which settled forever the question of a third term for any President of the United States, and literary after.

Chicago is a first-class place in which to hold the Democratic National Convention of 1896.

King Premph and President Crespo. King Premph of Ashantee died not far from the shores of Great Britain; the British settled next to Ashantee land. They have pressed their boundaries forward into PREMPEH's country, and, as usual, have quarrelled with him, and finally they have whipped him into complete surrender, and his land is their merey.

This British raid may be robbery undelivered, but the United States have no concern with Ashantee land. It is not for us to offer ourselves as arbitrators between VICTORIA and PREMPEH, or to request Great Britain to submit the respective rights of the two peoples to other arbiters.

The case of Venezuela and President Crespo is different. In Venezuela, as a country of South America, a portion of this hemisphere, we are deeply concerned; and since there is a dispute between Venezuela and Great Britain over the title to land, confessed by many precedents in British diplomacy to be of doubtful ownership, we ask of Great Britain to submit the matter to arbitration. The proposition that Great Britain should settle it herself, by force of her own dictum, and that President Crespo of Venezuela should be dealt with like King PREMPEH of Ashantee, is altogether unsatisfactory to the people of the United States; and we ask that the dispute be submitted to arbitration.

Lord SALISBURY's refusal to agree to this proposal was in itself an insult to the United States. We are not busied with reflection that diplomatists do. Neither do we brusquely demand that Great Britain immediately yield to every claim of Venezuela. We respectfully insist that the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana be settled by arbitration.

Give Watervliet More Money. The statement that, unless some provision for it is made very soon, the Watervliet Arsenal will have to cut down its working force to the minimum, should receive immediate attention from Congress. There are now, it is said, about four hundred men at work there, in one way or another, but the last session of Congress did not provide the full amount needed to keep the gun factory going to its capacity throughout the year. The gun plant is now working eight hours a day, but many pieces of heavy ordnance in course of construction must be left unfinished until money becomes available. The present output of guns could be doubled by keeping the works in operation day and night.

The duty of Congress, under these circumstances, is very plain. The best feature of Mr. SQUIRE's bill appropriating \$87,000,000 for coast defenses, now under consideration, is, to our mind, that it sets apart a large amount of use during the year ending June 30. What ought to be done in the course of the ten or eleven years for which this bill provides is a matter of great interest, and so it can be done with the twentieth or fiftieth million; but the question of the hour concerns what can be done at once.

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Afterward Congress, having authorized and directed the utmost use of all existing appliances, henceforth and until further orders, could at its leisure consider the case of ships to be completed three years hence, and of forts and guns to be constructed in the course of the next five years.

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The best feature of Mr. SQUIRE's bill appropriating \$87,000,000 for coast defenses, now under consideration, is, to our mind, that it sets apart a large amount of use during the year ending June 30. What ought to be done in the course of the ten or eleven years for which this bill provides is a matter of great interest, and so it can be done with the twentieth or fiftieth million; but the question of the hour concerns what can be done at once.

Weeks have now elapsed since a grave possibility of war came upon the country; and while the Navy Department has energetically pushed forward work night and day at the Washington ordnance yard, we hear of no such twenty-four-hour industry at Watervliet, or Watertown, or in the preparation of emplacements and of disappearing carriages for scores of heavy rifles which are waiting to be mounted at different places on the coast.

We should be glad to see the section of Mr. SQUIRE's bill relating to outlays for guns and forts separated from the rest, and passed at once. We should be glad to have the Senate committees which are studying out the \$87,000,000 and \$100,000,000 projects for the army and navy, call for immediate statements of the sums that could be actually laid out for material furnished and labor employed, by working night and day, on the forts, the ships, the guns, and the munitions, between Jan. 30 and June 30, 1896. And then we should like to see a bill of a few millions, which would be the utmost that could possibly be so expended, rushed through.

Afterward Congress, having authorized and directed the utmost use of all existing appliances, henceforth and until further orders, could at its leisure consider the case of ships to be completed three years hence, and of forts and guns to be constructed in the course of the next five years.

Where Continuity Was Broken. It has sometimes been asserted by Englishmen that continuity in foreign policy is one of their diplomatic traditions, and that, whatever their changes of domestic administration, the same general attitude is maintained toward other countries.

If this theory were always founded on fact, there might be no Guiana boundary dispute to-day. The published documents on that subject show that the late Lord GRANVILLE agreed to put the whole frontier question to arbitration. Before the arrangement for this purpose was perfected, Lord SALISBURY, in the mutations of English politics, took charge of British foreign affairs, and promptly notified Venezuela that "her Majesty's Government are unable to concur in the assent given by their predecessors in office to the general arbitration article proposed by Venezuela."

That was breaking continuity with a vengeance! Save for setting aside the alleged diplomatic tradition, arbitration would unquestionably have been resorted to, and the whole controversy would have been settled in a peaceful and proper way. In other words, this plan, the urging of which by the United States has provoked much misunderstanding in England, was that of her own Government in 1882, and was afterward abandoned in what Venezuela must look like a breach of faith.

The London *Truth* says that this rapid change of front, engineered by SALISBURY, was due to the fact that gold in paying quantities was discovered that year east of the Schomberg line. If so, it would appear that continuity in foreign policy is put on and off from very solid motives.

A Helne Boulevard. It appears that the member of the Board of Aldermen, Alderman WINDOL, who got the Board to pass a resolution in favor of placing the HEINE fountain in New York, is a member of the HEINE Memorial Committee, a body which failed to induce the Park Department to accept the fountain, after it had been condemned by the Sculpture Society. Yesterday it was made known that it is proposed to place the fountain at the head of the boulevard which is to be built north of the Harlem River. That very important work, which will cost our taxpayers in the neighborhood of twenty millions of dollars, is not only to be decorated by engineers and Street Commissioners, but is to be dedicated to HEINE.

Possibly some other advocates of the HEINE fountain, such as Mr. WILLIAM STEINWAY, for instance, may begin to appreciate the effect of their enterprise, now that it has reached this extraordinary development. Neither the Mayor nor the Board of Aldermen can be too quick to end this discreditable affair by putting the HEINE memorial out of New York for good and all.

The Sleeping Match. The Rev. Dr. CUYLER of Brooklyn has told a *SUN* reporter that he is wonderful as a sleeper. "In a sleeping match," he said to the reporter, "I can beat any man in New York." Let us congratulate the reverend gentleman. He is fortunate indeed.

We cannot enter the match here spoken of; for *THE SUN* must come out bright and early every morning of the week, all the year round. Besides, we would rather not beat the Brooklyn preacher in a match of the kind; we prefer that he should steadily hold the championship. He is worthy as well as able.

We do not know of a clergyman, either in Brooklyn or in this city, whom we could name against him. We are discouraged when we think of the Rev. Mr. PETERS, the Rev. Dr. COLLIER, the Rev. Father DUCKY, and the Rev. HENRY NEWTON, who do not believe that they could have any chance in such a match. In looking over the list of New York clergymen of all the communions, we cannot see the name of any one of them in whom we could trust as a sleeper compared with the distinguished Brooklyn minister. Even if we had not always taken a stand against betting, we would not bet a dime upon a man among them.

If, therefore, the estimable Rev. Dr. CUYLER would figure in a sleeping match, with the odds in his favor, he must go outside of the pulpit.